

FA No to delay bid

HAYES and WYCOMBE yesterday made a joint appeal to the FA for a postponement of their third round FA Trophy tie. Both have long injury lists.

But because of the delays which have caused chaos in the competition, the FA turned down the appeal so the Berger Isthmian League teams must play at Hayes on Wednesday (7.30) with a place in the quarter-finals at stake.

Hayes's injury list includes defenders Gordon Bartlett and Neil Bunker, striker Terry Brown and midfielder Laurie Graker.

Wycombe were able to muster only 12 fit players for Saturday's League match with Dulwich.

Billericay, FA Vase winners twice since it began four seasons ago, are through to the semi-finals after beating Eastbourne United 1-0.

MICHAEL MELANIPHY

BLUES WAIT FOR HAYES OR CONSETT

WYCOMBE Wanderers will make a return trip to Runcorn if they defeat either Consett or Hayes in the next round. That's the position after a week of hectic action in the F.A. Trophy, writes MICHAEL KNOX.

When the quarter-final draw was made on Monday, Wycombe, who gained a brilliant 3-0 victory over Blyth Spartans at Loakes Park on Saturday, were faced with all manner of possibilities. The draw read: Runcorn or Margate v Consett or Accrington Stanley, or Hayes or Wycombe.

Thanks to two matches played on Monday, the position has been clarified. The Consett v Accrington tie finally got away about six weeks late after the game had been switched to North Shields because of the state of the Consett pitch.

HANDICAP

Despite this handicap Consett triumphed 3-2 and so the Northern League side will travel down to Middlesex to meet Isthmian Leaguers Hayes tomorrow (Saturday). The winners of that match will entertain Wycombe at a date to be arranged.

The date is likely to be sometime next week, so that if the game has to be played in midweek, Blues' players and supporters alike will be hoping

for a Hayes victory tomorrow. But Consett, who have dropped fewer points in the Northern League than Blyth, must start favourites.

Only when that match has been played will Runcorn, of the Northern Premier League, know who their visitors are. If Wycombe win through, they will be making a return visit to the ground where they were knocked out of the competition two years ago, with Whitbread scoring both goals after Blues had taken the lead.

The prospect of the Runcorn trip is some way off yet. Wycombe's more immediate thoughts turn to improving their league position with a victory at home to Dulwich Hamlet tomorrow.

During their Blyth saga Wanderers have slipped four places down the table and their chances of moving up have not been improved by a serious run of injuries.

In addition to Dave Allanson, who will miss the rest of the season after a probable cartilage operation on his knee, John Priestley, Terry Scott and Howard Kennedy have all been affected in some way by injury.

Priestley, injured by a tackle from Blyth's Ron Guthrie, was found to have damaged his knee ligaments — less bad than was feared when he was stretched

off the field. He will probably be out for two weeks.

Kennedy (injured ankle) and Scott (pulled calf muscle) are both on the mend after missing the Slough game. To add to Andy Williams' worries is the two-week suspension given to Mark Judd. It started on Monday and was given for a sending off with a Birmingham club earlier in the season.

Dulwich are the most improved side in the Isthmian League during the past two seasons. After being relegated, they bounced right back by last season taking the Division One title by ten clear points.

IMPROVEMENT

They have continued the improvement this season so effectively that they currently stand second with only Enfield ahead of them.

Even more remarkable is the fact that the average of the Dulwich side is just 21. The oldest player, defender Rodney Brookes is 33 — a year older than their promising manager Alan Smith.

The star of the side is their exciting striker Ossie Bayram, who scored 33 goals last season and already has 17 in this campaign.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to Feb. 27)

Enfield	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dulwich	26	16	4	6	49	27	52
Barking	26	14	8	4	48	33	50
Slough	24	14	7	3	35	35	49
Hendon	23	14	7	6	39	50	49
Dagenham	31	12	10	8	41	35	49
Woking	25	15	3	7	49	37	48
Wycombe	26	12	7	7	53	37	43
Grays	27	12	7	8	39	28	43
Leatherhead	26	12	6	8	36	42	42
Hitchin	30	11	9	9	40	27	41
Barnet	31	11	7	13	39	47	40
Waltham	29	10	8	11	36	38	38
Wingate	29	11	5	13	45	47	38
Oxford City	30	11	5	14	38	54	38
Sutton	29	10	7	12	39	54	37
Tring	28	7	10	12	37	31	31
Carlton	30	6	11	13	31	44	29
Staines	28	5	11	12	30	44	26
Yarnham	32	3	11	18	25	51	20
Leyton	27	2	4	21	20	69	10

WYCOMBE WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUB

announce the appointment of Mike Phillips, as Commercial Manager.

He will be responsible for the new £3,500 Bonanza Lottery now running and all fund raising activities.

Contact Mike at the Lottery Office, Loakes Park. (High Wycombe 26567)

By MICHAEL KNOX

Wycombe Wands 1, Slough Town 1

AFTER 275 minutes of football this season, Wycombe Wanderers finally broke through Slough Town's defensive web at Loakes Park on Tuesday night. But the goal was not enough to give them victory in this Berks and Bucks Senior Cup semi-final tie.

Following their 1-0 defeat and goalless draw in the two league games against Slough this season, Wycombe seemed set for yet another blank sheet when, despite a host of chances, they failed to score again in the first 90 minutes of this sometimes frenetic encounter.

But five minutes into extra time they broke the deadlock with a somewhat unusual goal. They were awarded an indirect free-kick to the right edge of the penalty area after Stewart Atkins had been obstructed.

Mick Hollifield, taking the kick, curled the ball over every player towards the goal. It bounced awkwardly in front of Slough goalkeeper Richard Teale, and hit him in the face before crossing the line.

Had the ball evaded Teale, of course, the goal would not have stood as it would have gone in direct. Officially Teale should have been credited with an own goal but Wycombe will no doubt give the goal to Hollifield, who

needs every one he can get. It was only his fourth of the season. This goal seemed set to send holders Wycombe into the final against either Newbury of Hungerford, as Slough had long since ceased to threaten the home goal.

EQUALISER

But four minutes later they equalised thanks to the combination of their two substitutes Barry Friend and Peter Feeley. Friend curled in a corner under the Wycombe crossbar where Feeley rose unchallenged to head home. One must question the positioning of Peter Spittle who stood rooted to his line.

Slough went close to snatching what would have been a lucky win, when their full-back Tim Turl appeared to be brought down right on the edge of the Wanderers' penalty area. But the referee, perhaps wanting justice to be done, waved aside all appeals for a penalty.

If Wycombe had lost, they would have had only themselves to blame, for despite fielding a makeshift side, they created enough chances in the second half of normal time to have sewn up the result long before the end.

Because of their long injury list and the two-week suspension on Judd, Wycombe were stretched to the limit to find eleven fit players.

Because of injury, Blues were without Dave Allanson, John Priestley and Terry Scott, while a half-fit Howard Kennedy sat on the substitutes' bench along

with goalkeeper John Maskell. So Blues did not have to call in any of their youth players after all.

Wanderers naturally started in uncertain fashion and the dangerous Dave Russell twice fired over the bar from good positions, while Spittle had to be on the alert to save well from Alan Cane's free-kick.

But Blues soon recovered their poise and started putting on the pressure with quick accurate passing. Paul Birdseye, who was to have a growing effect on the game from the unaccustomed position of midfield, created a couple of chances for Steve Long, who is currently playing his best football of the season.

Just before half-time Atkins was desperately unlucky when his volleyed shot on the turn struck the underside of the bar and came out.

The pattern of extraordinary misses and close shaves continued into the second half. Alan Phillips and Dylan Evans both put shots wide from close range while Birdseye and Keith Mead saw efforts cleared off the line by desperate Slough defenders.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; S. Hardwick, H. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, P. Birdseye, S. Adams, M. Hollifield, D. Evans, I. Reed, S. Long, S. Guba, H. Kennedy, J. Maskell (lost upset).

SLOUGH: R. Teale; T. Turl, R. McKee, I. Cooke, R. Strong, J. Beyer, D. Russell, A. Cane, P. Lee (sub B. Friend 60 mins), B. Metcalfe (sub P. Feeley 61 mins), M. Kelly.

Referee: E. P. Tiley (Reading). Half-time 0-0. Full-time: 0-0. Scores: Wycombe — Slough (95 mins); Slough — Feeley (99 mins). Attendance: 750.